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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 001798

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/28/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [UG](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY ALARMED BY EUROPEAN REPORTS OF UGANDAN INTENTIONS

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ROGER MEECE. REASON 1.4 (b/d)

11. (C) The Ambassador was called to the Presidency Friday afternoon, October 28. Upon arrival, President Kabila was in another meeting, but Chief of Staff She Okitundu received the Ambassador to relay Kabila's message. The gist was that "Europeans" had provided reports to the Presidency which concluded that "all indications" were that Ugandan President Museveni was preparing for military incursion(s) into DRC territory. Okitundu asked if the U.S. had any corresponding information, and as well for the U.S. to express its opposition to any unilateral cross-border action in the region. Okitundu did not identify which European country or countries had supplied the reported information. In response to the Ambassador's questions as to the specific basis for the reports, Okitundi reiterated simply that the European concern had been summarized as being based on the information available to them.

12. (C) The Ambassador responded that he was not aware of any similar information, nor in fact any corroborating evidence of pending Ugandan cross-border actions. On the contrary, in recent weeks there had been Congo-Ugandan bilateral military discussions facilitated by MONUC, and Tripartite Plus talks in Kampala facilitated by the U.S. The U.S. had made it very clear in those fora as well as other private and public messages that we believed that cooperation between Uganda and the DRC represented the best path forward to address threats to security posed by the LRA and other "negative forces." Indeed, we were encouraged that some of the growing tension indicated by statements in early October seems to have abated. Cross-border unilateral action in the region clearly poses a risk to the region's stability. We would continue to use our efforts to promote increased regional cooperation through, for example, the Tripartite process and the establishment of the Kisangani-based Fusion Cell, and encourage the maximum amount of bilateral and regional policy and operational coordination and cooperation possible. While we certainly continue to be very attentive to the situation in the region, we had no information to support the contention that Uganda was actively preparing for any unilateral incursions into the DRC.

13. (C) Okitundu thanked the Ambassador for the information, and asked that we remain in contact regarding any relevant information on the subject.

14. (C) While in a waiting area, the Ambassador encountered Presidency Special Advisor for Security Samba Kaputo. The Ambassador raised the issue of LRA presence in northeastern DRC with Kaputo, and asked about any developments. Kaputo repeated familiar assertions that the DRC did not want the LRA in the DRC, and was ready to move against them should they return. He reiterated that the government has no knowledge of any LRA elements now in the DRC, but noted that the FARDC have roughly two battalions deployed in the Aba area to respond to any LRA attempt to return. He also stated again that should anyone have information as to an LRA location in the DRC, he asks it be passed along so the FARDC can be deployed to the location to move against the LRA elements present.

15. (C) Comment: The reported European alarm seems a bit odd. The Kabila/Okitundu expression of concern to us may be exactly what it was presented to be, a concern based on a European report, or it may have been an attempt to cross-check whether the U.S. had any corresponding information. The tone of Okitundu's presentation was open and straightforward, without any hostility, belligerent rhetoric, request for action against Uganda, or other suggestions to indicate an additional agenda. It may be that the reported European warning simply represents some dated information from early October that only now made its way forward. The concern expressed, however, is also a pretty clear indicator of the continuing unease and uncertainty at the Presidency regarding Kampala's actions and intent. End comment  
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